

CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY CURRICULUM 2014

The Cardiothoracic Surgery curriculum defines the required competence for the practice of Cardiothoracic Surgery at CCT, ensuring that trainees are able to work at consultant level within a team. The syllabus has been revised and refined following a thorough and comprehensive review by the SAC of the requirements for training in Cardiothoracic Surgery as well as workforce and patient needs.

Syllabus competencies

The changes and updates that have been made to the syllabus can be browsed in a [mapping document](#). They include an adjustment for greater accuracy to some of the technical skills competencies in the specialised components. These are in line with evolutionary and incremental changes in service provision and take account of the effect of the European Working Time Directive (EWTR). There has been very little change in the expected level of knowledge and clinical skills.

The updated curriculum reflects the competencies required in the generality of the specialty of Cardiothoracic Surgery for a day one consultant. The cardiothoracic surgeon at CCT will have the range and levels of expertise to respond to the demands of the service, the needs of patients and future developments in the speciality. The higher levels of competence may be reached by some doctors in training, in certain areas of practice, whereas others may reach the higher levels of competence during their career development as a consultant.

Simulation

In addition, the SAC has added into the syllabus an indication of areas in which simulation should be used to develop relevant skills. In the downloadable version of the curriculum there is an additional column. In the on-line syllabus, simulation is shown within topics and indicated as either *Highly recommended* for areas that should be achievable and available to all trainees or as *Desirable* for those that can be introduced over a more prolonged time period and it is envisaged that they will become more formalised from August 2015.

It will be the responsibility of the education and training providers to determine the methodology to be used and how it should be delivered, taking into account local factors (including access for trainees working in remote geographical locations).

Switching to the new curriculum

The Cardiothoracic Surgery SAC's view is that all trainees in specialty training should transfer to the 2014 curriculum at the earliest opportunity by drawing down updated syllabus topics into subsequent learning agreements. Trainees with a CCT in 2014 may remain on the 2013 version but should be aware that ARCP panels will be informed about the new curriculum skill levels.

Level of training in 2014					
ST3	ST4	ST5	ST6	ST7	ST8
Use the 2014 curriculum in learning agreements					May remain on the 2013 curriculum

The formal regulations on [transfer to the latest curriculum](#) are on the GMC website.